



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Selectmen's Minutes 05-08-2006

**TOWN OF ARLINGTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 8, 2006

7:00 p.m.

Present: Ms. LaCourt, Vice Chair, Mr. Hurd, Mrs. Mahon, and Ms. Rowe.

Also present: Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Maher, and Mrs. Sullivan

Absent: Mr. Greeley, Chair.

1. Discussion: Article 20 – Easement/55 Venner Road

John F. Maher, Town Counsel

After much discussion between the Selectmen, Mr. Sullivan, and Mr. Maher a couple of meeting guests were allowed to speak.

Mr. Charles Foskett, Precinct 8, stated that while he applauded the Board for the strong interest in the Town's interest, he deplores it's at the cost to private citizens. If the Town does not want to widen the road than the easement holds no value to the Town and should be released.

Mr. Michael Quinn, Precinct #10, stated that the Town paid for the right of the land years ago and that it should not be given away. He urged the Board to vote no action.

Mr. Hurd proposed a substitute motion: release the easement with a two-lot provision at a payment of 33.3% of the land value to the landowner. SO VOTED (2-2)

Ms. LaCourt and Ms. Rowe voted in the negative.

Mr. Maher stated that this tie vote put into effect that the last vote would go to Town Meeting floor. Mr. Maher also stated that Ms. LaCourt must speak to the majority vote at Town Meeting.

Mr. Hurd moved approval of the comments. SO VOTED (4-0)

Discussion: Article 28 – Home Rule Legislation/Tax Exemptions

Mr. Charles Foskett, Precinct 8, spoke regarding the interest rate of this home rule. Mr. Foskett commented that the majority vote of FinCom was that the rate be a variable rate between 6%-8%, with a ceiling at 8% to be reviewed yearly.

He expressed concern that qualifying taxpayers would take the exemptions and invest earning higher rates. After a discussion of the Board they decided to remain with the original vote.

Mrs. Mahon moved approval of the original vote of \$30,000 maximum income; 6% interest rate; AND to raise the exemption rate to 30%.

SO VOTED (4-0)

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Maher reported that the Lahey Clinic Meeting was a good meeting with and money will be forthcoming.

Mr. Sullivan reported that the local aid budget figure from the House of Representatives was very disappointing and it's in the Senate now.

Mrs. Mahon requested that Mr. Greeley and Ms. LaCourt work together regarding the Budget Revenue Task Force Meeting on May 22nd and change the meeting to a Joint School Committee and Board of Selectmen meeting (inviting Senator Havern) and discuss how the proposed Senate version of the budget effects the Town of Arlington.

Mrs. Mahon requested that Mr. Sullivan distribute the draft document regarding field lighting and that a policy be set on this matter.

Mrs. Mahon requested that Mr. Sullivan address neighbor complaints of the trees taken down at Buck Field and Summer Street, plant more trees.

Mrs. Mahon reported that they plan to have the concession stand at A.H.S. completed by September 1st. Mrs. Mahon referred finalizing the plans to Mr. Sullivan to find out what's needed by the School Committee by May 24th.

Mrs. Mahon requested that Mr. Sullivan distribute a copy of the Veteran's Memorial Rink infrastructure improvement plan so that it can be reviewed.

Mr. Hurd announced that the Feast of the East is June 3rd from 1:00pm to 5:00pm.

Mr. Hurd will be at the School Committee tomorrow evening to have a preliminary discussion of building a rink at A.H.S. that is 100% privately funded.

Mr. Hurd asked when a policy for the lights is completed that it applies to all 3 fields with lights.

Mr. Hurd asked Mr. Sullivan if the Veteran's Rink poses any safety issues in its current condition? Mr. Sullivan replied no.

Mr. Sullivan reported that Warrant Article #7 was pulled from the table of Town Meeting and asked the Selectmen to vote no action.

Mrs. Mahon moved no action on Article #7.

SO VOTED (4-0)

Mrs. Mahon moved to recess to Town Meeting at 7:52 PM.

SO VOTED (4-0)

A True Record: Attest:

Mary Ann Sullivan